

Kona Cooperative Extension – Events and Announcements Newsletter

Volume 16-2, April 2020

UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Offices was closed on the following days:

Friday, April 10th, in observance of Good Friday

Visit <https://www.hawaiicoffeeed.com/events-and-announcements> for additional information on the following events, announcements and more.

Collection of resources for farmers

Financial Assistance

- American Farmland Trust - Farmer Relief Program - <https://bit.ly/2wrWUil>
Offering up to \$1,000
- USA Chamber of Commerce Small Business Loans - <https://bit.ly/2UQhoLd>
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated \$350 billion to help small businesses keep workers employed amid the pandemic and economic downturn. Known as the Paycheck Protection Program, the initiative provides 100% federally guaranteed loans to small businesses. Importantly, these loans may be forgiven if borrowers maintain their payrolls during the crisis or restore their payrolls afterward.
- \$27 Million In Grant Funding Available For Farmers Markets And Local Food Projects - <https://bit.ly/2Rm6zyn>
Deadline: May 26, 2020
On March 9, 2020 USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced the availability of \$27 million in funding for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP). FMLFPP has two subprograms – the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) – with a separate Request for Applications (RFA) for each subprogram. Both programs provide grants on a competitive basis for a wide variety of direct-to-consumer and local food marketing projects.
- SBA Disaster Loan Assistance - <https://bit.ly/2UOudWp>
The SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters. Apply for assistance at the link above
The Healy Foundation COVID-19 Response Grants - <https://bit.ly/2Riaooe>
Weekly grants to nonprofits in Oregon and Hawaii. Maximum award is \$25,000 and grants are 100% unrestricted. Applicants will provide their organization's budget and answer three brief questions. Click the link to learn more
Hawai'i Community Foundation COVID-19 Response Grants - <https://bit.ly/2Vfn9B4>
In order to move resources quickly they are forgoing a formal application process for the Fund. Please email grants@hcf-hawaii.org.

Farmer Resources

- GoFarm Hawaii Farmer Resources - <https://bit.ly/3e3CNrV>
An abundant list of useful farmer resources
- GoFarm Hawaii Find a Farmer - <https://bit.ly/2RlxlqB>
To add your farm to this list, please email your information to info@gofarmhawaii.org
- USDA Local Food Promotion Program - <https://bit.ly/2V9Q7IX>
The Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products.
- COVID-19 Farm Food Safety Reminders via CTAHR - <https://bit.ly/2UQhEtF>
Practical farm food safety strategies to continue implementing to protect yourself and employees and minimize the risk of contamination
- Mitigating Immediate Harmful Impacts of COVID-19 on Farms and Ranches selling through Local and Regional Food Markets - <https://bit.ly/3bYUyGZ>
Projected impacts by selected market, based on March-May period of social distancing: This short brief provides a preliminary attempt to estimate economic losses to the local and regional food sector in the U.S. and additional guidance for policymakers as they evaluate solutions that will minimize negative impacts to small businesses and rural economies.
- Considerations for Fruit and Vegetable Growers Related to Coronavirus & COVID-19 (University of Vermont) - <https://bit.ly/2V9GGDD>
What should farmers and farmers' markets do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Supporting Alternative Sales Options for Direct to Market Farmers (Rural Advancement Foundation International) - <https://bit.ly/34lzEPD>
If you're a farmers' market manager looking for ways to support the vendors while the market is closed, here are a few ideas for how you can help boost farmers pre-order and delivery sales.
- COVID Response and Resources for CSAs (Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) and CSA Innovation Network) - <https://bit.ly/3c3ITf4>
Crowdsourced CSA-related information. Covers online sales, messaging, connecting with other farmers, and more
- Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) COVID-19 Task Force - <https://bit.ly/2V98449>
The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) has launched a task force to quickly organize local food production; aggregate existing food hubs; and collaborate with certified commercial kitchens, door-to-door distributors and other stakeholders; to immediately address the economic impact of food sustainability from the global crisis.
- UC Berkeley - Resources for Food Safety and Handling during COVID-19 - <https://bit.ly/2yIEAma>
Food safety on the farm google drive. Includes documents on safe food handling.

- Cornell - Food Industry Virtual Office Hours to Answer COVID-19 Questions - <https://bit.ly/2UOWZpZ>

Have questions about your farms' food safety practices? Feel like you could do more? Cornell's Institute for Food Safety is hosting Food Industry Virtual Office Hours where you can speak directly to Cornell University Food Safety Experts. Registration is not required. Click the link above to find days and times.

Health and Food Safety

- COVID-19 Farm Food Safety - <https://bit.ly/2XjWiH0>
This resource was developed by CTAHR to support Food Safety Guidelines
- How to Grocery Shop Safely During a Pandemic - <https://bit.ly/2URAhxj>

Feed for animals

- Any farmer can call Eric Weinert at 808-982-8880 and order an 800 pound bin of papaya for \$75 each, prepaid at our office by Thursday noon for delivery the following Monday morning. By the bin only, one bin minimum.

\$60 will go to the grower, and \$15 per bin will go to Calavo for administration.

13th Annual Kona Coffee & Small Farm Expo

Aloha,

After careful consideration the Kona Coffee Farmer's Association Expo Committee has decided to postpone the 13th Annual Kona Coffee & Small Farm's Expo due to the global COVID-19 concerns.

We do not have a specific date set yet but are looking at sometime in the fall. We will continue to monitor the situation and will communicate any updates as they unfold.

On behalf of the Kona Coffee Farmer's Association, we truly appreciate your support and hope that you will be able to participate in the Expo in the fall.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,

Ally Brown/Aesha Shapiro

KCFA Expo Coordinator

808-796-1340

808-443-3884

Get reimbursed for farm costs incurred for transportation of your agricultural commodities and inputs

USDA Announces Payments Set to Begin for 2019 Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Hawaii today announced that fiscal year 2019 payments for the **Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP)** - <https://bit.ly/2xVsICf> will begin on April 6, 2020. State Executive Director AL Frenzel said RTCP will help eligible farmers and ranchers offset a portion of the cost of transporting agricultural products over long distances.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 reauthorized RTCP and allows farmers and ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii and insular areas including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands of the United States, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau, to recover any costs to transport agricultural commodities or inputs used to produce an agricultural commodity.

RTCP payments are calculated based on the costs incurred for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs during a fiscal year, subject to an \$8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year. If claims for payments exceed the funds available from the program for a fiscal year, payments will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.

To find your local FSA county office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator

USDA Adds Additional Flexibilities for Crop Insurance to Support America's Farmers and Ranchers

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is authorizing self-certification on replant inspections and waiving witness signatures in certain situations as part of a broader suite of flexibilities to support producers during the coronavirus pandemic. Specifically, Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) may allow the use of self-certification replant inspections for certain crops with 100 gross acres (before considering share) per unit in lieu of 50 acres, and they may waive the witness signature requirement for approval of Assignment of Indemnity through July 15, 2020, for applicable crop years. Read more at <https://bit.ly/39MePy4>

FSA Outreach Focus: Reaching Out to Keep Farmers, Ranchers & Partners Informed

Stakeholder Toolkits

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grassland - <https://bit.ly/2VevNji>
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) Pilot - <https://bit.ly/34iJoKF>

Important Stakeholder News

- FSA Makes Changes to Farm Loan, Disaster, Conservation and Safety Net Programs to Make it Easier for Customers to Conduct Business - <https://bit.ly/39Xv4bT>
- Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands Sign Up Underway - <https://bit.ly/3e5a0n1>

- New Conservation Pilot Program for Prairie Pothole Producers to Plant Perennial Cover - <https://bit.ly/3bX9kOz>
 - Coronavirus and USDA Service Centers - <https://bit.ly/2JOZFh6>
 - USDA Stands Up New Team to Serve Beginning Farmers and Ranchers - <https://bit.ly/3edqbyG>
 - Final Rule of Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Published in Federal Register - <https://bit.ly/34gPxXO>
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New H-2A Rules Streamlines Bringing Workers to U.S.

Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue announced over the weekend the U.S. will ease constraints on the H-2A and H-2B programs. Earlier in March the U.S. announced only returning guestworkers would be allowed back in the U.S. due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The restriction sent shockwaves through agriculture, with growers worried about having enough labor available during planting season.

To continue reading visit <https://bit.ly/34pLlzx>

Kona Coffee Farmers Association's The Independent Voice April 2020 Newsletter

To view the full newsletter visit <https://bit.ly/2VbMUCw>
In this issue:

- Working Together Locally for the Betterment of All
 - Coffee for Health Care Workers
 - Help for Farmers, Agriculture Businesses, and Their Employees
 - Food4All - Shopping Cart for Farmers Direct to Consumers
 - Sources of Produce During the Shutdown
 - Legislative Update
 - Cancellation of CBB Demonstration
 - Useful Tools for Coffee Producers
 - Recipe: Java Roast Beef
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